



28 January 2011

Better late than never – I hope: On behalf of the Symphony Choir of Johannesburg I wish you all the best for the coming year, may it be a happy and prosperous one, and one full of glorious music experiences in the company of the Choir; trust me, we'll certainly do our utmost for that to happen.

The reason for not contacting you earlier is that the new Patron, Sponsor & Friend schedule was not discussed before we broke for the Christmas holidays, and it has only now been agreed upon by the Committee.

There'll be quite a few changes in 2011, so please bear with me while I explain everything!

As we all know, things keep getting more expensive; when petrol or electricity goes up everything else follows: the cost of producing and transporting the goods are higher, and so the item price goes up! So, despite our best intentions to keep the Patron, Sponsor & Friend contributions as low as possible, we are again forced by inflation to increase them for the year 2011 – even orchestral players have to eat! Add to that higher tariffs for using the Linder Auditorium, for transport and accommodation of soloists, for hiring of music and instruments etc. etc. and just breaking even becomes a challenge.

The Committee has therefore found it necessary to fix the contributions for 2011 as follows: Patrons: R10350; Sponsors: R2100; Friends: R605. This is based on the box-office prices, which will range from R80 to R195 for 2011. One thing I can promise, however, is: you'll get your money's worth, down to the very last cent - there'll be no 'outages', 'no shows' or 'non deliveries' – just super concerts with your favourite choir!

The benefits will be as always – ***BUT – we'll revert to the 'old system' for Sponsors!***

This means the benefits are:

Patrons: 10 tickets for each choir produced concert, option of having company logo in all programmes and on the choir web-site;

Sponsors: 2 tickets for each choir produced concert (maximum 10 tickets per year) - this year we'll have 6 choir produced items on the calendar, so choices have to be made, as you'll not be able to 'carry over' unused tickets to other concerts;

Friends: 2 tickets for the year for choir produced concerts – use them together or separately as you wish.

All Patrons, Sponsors & Friends are listed in the programmes and on the choir web-site; all are invited for refreshments during the intervals, there are free programmes for the concerts and Newsletters so you're kept up to date plus of course the preferential booking through Debbie– believe me – *it's a very good deal indeed*. The seats allocated are always in the top bracket i.e. this year the R195 (group A) section – so simply the best!

And now for the main change in the schedule!

In order to streamline the administration of the Patrons, Sponsors & Friends portfolio, and indeed to secure some much needed 'up-front' capital for the choir to work with, it has been decided that all Patron, Sponsor & Friend contributions be made due in January of each year. That is: your contribution/support will coincide with the calendar year – begin in January and expire in December. Quite a few already follow the calendar year, but for the rest this year will be one of transition.

The year will be divided into 3 'terms' : 1st Jan – April , 2nd May – August, 3rd September – December

Payment if joining in - or present contribution expiring in (valid for 2011 only):

1st term: R2100

2nd term: R1400 (i.e. 2100 less two concerts @ 350)

3rd term: R1050 (i.e. 2100 less three concerts @ 350)

As an existing Patron, Sponsor or Friend you would this year have to pay according to in which term the renewal falls, e .g. if it is due in October, this year you'd pay R 1050 in October and then pay the full 2012 amount in January 2012.

WOA – what a lecture! But what's on the calendar for 2011? Lots of spectacular music – just look here:

APRIL : Tuesday 5th @ 19.30 – Vivaldi: Gloria & Faure: Requiem – Linder Auditorium

: Friday 22nd @ 18.00 – Handel: Messiah – Linder Auditorium
MAY : Saturday 28th @ 20.00 – Last Night of the Proms (this is not choir produced so no freebies!)
: Sunday 29th @ 20.00 – ditto (these are fundraisers for Lifeline & great fun) – Linder Auditorium
JUNE : Sunday 17th @ 15.00 – Rossini: Stabat Mater – Linder Auditorium
OCTOBER : Sunday 9th @ 15.00 – Poulenc: Gloria – Linder Auditorium
NOVEMBER : Sunday 6th @ 15.00 – Gilbert & Sullivan: ?? – Linder Auditorium
DECEMBER : Saturday 10th @ 19.30 – Christmas Concert
Sunday 11th @ 15.00 – Christmas Concert

So – it's going to be quite an exciting and busy year, with some great music we haven't performed for some time, and we hope to see you at all the concerts.

I have said it before and I'll say it again: From the point of view of the Choir *your financial contribution is quite simply invaluable* – our Patrons, Sponsors and Friends continue to be fundamental to the Choir's financial health and are appreciated enormously; we love to make music, but without your contribution it would be a very difficult task indeed to keep it all going.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the Symphony Choir of Johannesburg,

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Registered Public Benefit Organisation 18/11/13/4874